



DESERT ROUNDUP

Vol. 37 No. 2

Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada

Friday, February 1, 2002

Scholarships, savings bonds, other benefits offered to NASF students

By JO2 Eric D. Ritter
Desert Roundup Editor

Colleges aren't cheap these days. They haven't been for a while, and they probably won't be anytime soon. However, there are plenty of options right here on base to ease some of those collegiate financial woes facing you and your children.

Just this year alone, the NEX, Officers Wives' Club and the Commissary are offering a variety of awards for military member's children who are performing an outstanding job in the class room.

The NEX is offering a program called the A-OK Student Reward Program. Dependent children of active-duty members, reservists and military retirees are eligible. Must be a full-time student with at least a "B" grade-point average. The students will receive a A-OK ID card and discount coupons on NEX merchandise. But, most of all they will be eligible to register to win US Savings Bonds totaling \$40,000 for the school year.

All qualified students will participate in a quarterly drawing for \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 savings bonds, denominations at maturity. Each eligible student may enter only once each grade period and must re-enter with each qualifying report card. Those drawings are held quarterly at NEX-COM at the end of November, February, May and July.

The Commissary is offering education in-

centives by way of the Scholarships for Military Children Program.

Students with at least a 3.0 grade point average are eligible to enter. The child will need to write an essay that describes how his or her activities have enriched the community. The scholarships are worth \$1,500 each. The deadline for entry is Feb. 5. Sons and daughters of US military ID card holders including active duty, retirees, Guard and Reservists may apply. Students who don't live close to a commissary will be able to mail their applications to the nearest store location.

Applicants may be college-bound high school seniors or students already enrolled in a four-year undergraduate program.

A permanent link with details on the program has been added to the commissary website: <http://www.commissaries.com> at the "What's New" link. The scholarship application and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be accessed and downloaded from the website.

The base's Officer Wives' Club busy with the

Citizen of the Year scholarship program. Though, enrollment in the program was Jan 25, those who already applied have until April 5 to submit their essay. Those graduating students must have completed at least 30 hours of volunteer work during the school year and have written the essay in about 1,000 words on the impact of their work. It, too, is for high school seniors who're children of active duty personnel.

These three programs are just a taste of some of the scholarships that are offered to military member's children. Some scholarships go ungranted every year, since there may not be any applicants or not enough applicant competition. Some times the word just doesn't get out or just isn't stressed enough about all the programs.

One of the best ways is to keep in contact with these organizations i.e.; NEX, Commissary, Wive's Club, etc., to keep abreast of what's happening.

After all, with the cost of school rising all the time, your children's good grades can be worth more than just a good report card.

Polar Bears come to Fallon



On Saturday, Jan. 19, many patrons became new members of the Polar Bear Swim Club. Last year was the first year for the club. In order to be a part of this club, other than having the resistance to cold like a Polar Bear, one must jump into a pool outside while it is 34 degrees. Even the base CO, Capt. Brad T. Goetsch took a dip in the water. Afterward, members were treated to a waiting hot shower and some cocoa and donuts—if only polar bears had it so well. (Photo by JO3 Denise Morris)



Planet X Super Bowl party
Feb 3, Doors open at 1pm, and game kick-off is at 3pm. Watch the game on 15 TVs including the BIG screen while enjoying great food and beverages. Games, prizes and other give-aways will be offered! Other Super Bowl party details on Page 2

Sailors to see changes in BAS

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Sailors will see changes in their Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) when they receive their next Leave and Earnings Statement (LES).

As part of the National Defense Authorization Acts of FY98 and FY02, a single BAS rate (\$241.60 per month) will replace three previous rates of BAS: Separate Rations (SEPRATS), partial BAS, and Emergency Rations (EMRATS).

Legislative changes to BAS are designed to remove the inequity between service members on rations-in-kind (RIK — required to subsist in a government mess) and those receiving full BAS. Prior to 1998, members on RIK did not receive the difference between the cost of meals provided and full BAS.

Effective Jan. 1, 2002, members on RIK will only be charged for meals provided at the discount meal rate, leaving a surplus of more than \$30 per month.

These changes were also designed to tie BAS to a credible food cost index (FCI) set by the United States Department of Agriculture. FCI increased to 3.7 percent in 2002.

As a result of BAS reform, all active-duty and Reserve component members entitled to basic pay will also receive BAS, with the exception of initial accessions (i.e. personnel in recruit training). Regardless of duty station, members will see the BAS details on their LES.

"Members will see a small increase to their BAS entitlement as a result of the 3.7 percent USDA food cost index increase, vice the BAS transition authority that only allowed a 1 percent increase," said Lt. Stormi Looney, assistant section head, Navy compensation

office for the Chief of Naval Personnel.

"Members previously on rations-in-kind or partial BAS will now see the full BAS entitlement as a credit on their LES. As government meals are being provided to the members, they will also see a deduction at the discount meal rate for those meals made available."

Personnel in paygrades E-1 through E-6, residing in single government quarters and required to subsist in a shore galley or other government-provided mess facility, will be charged via automatic pay account deduction at the discount meal rate of \$6.75 per day for meals made available. All other enlisted personnel and officers will be charged the standard meal rate (\$8.10 per day) for meals consumed in that shore facility.

Members residing in single government quarters with no government messing available will continue to receive the rations-in-kind not available (RIKNA)

See BAS, Page 2

BAS Cont from Page 1

rate of \$262.50.

Sailors (E-1 through E-6) assigned to duty in ships will see a deduction for all meals made available by the ship's galley at the discount meal rate. The difference in entitlement and deduction will be approximately equal to the partial BAS payment Sailors received before enactment of BAS reform. CPO private messes and officer wardrooms will be handled in the same fashion as before Jan. 1, 2002.

For more information, see NAVADMIN 005/02.

For more news you can use, go to www.news.navy.mil.



Chapel Call

Protestant

Sunday: 11a.m. Worship Service
Communion Sunday is the first Sunday of each month.

Catholic

Sunday: 9:30a.m./6p.m. Mass
For other Catholic services available in town, please call St. Patrick's at 423-2846

Ash Wednesday Schedule

6:45a.m. & 11:45 Service of Ashes
6p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass

News and Notes

BONE MARROW DRIVE: There will be a bone marrow drive from 9am-noon, Feb 12 at the North Hall Chapel. For more information, please contact Lt. Cmdr Hansen at 426-3106.

Car care for women

On Feb. 5, a class will be offered to women who want to learn how to change a tire on their own car/truck, check fluids, when to use chains/cables, etc. Please sign up early. Limited space is available. Call 426-2575.

Seabee Ball Fundraiser car wash

Too cold to wash your car? Let the Seabees do it on Feb. 2 at the NEX parking lot from 10am to 2pm. Donations are accepted. Hotdog and Hamburgers will be available. \$3.50 will get you one hotdog and hamburger or two of your choice with soda and chips. Note: the car wash is also dependant upon the weather.

Silver State Club Super Bowl Party

Feb. 3--Party starts at 1p.m.

Kick-off is at 3p.m.

Come watch the game on our big screen TV with free munchies, games, prizes and give-aways.

ITT Feb. Events:

-All ski lift tickets are discounted for the Sweetheart month of February.

-Call your sweetheart for Valentines Day, Wednesday, Feb.13.

For One Day Only, all \$40 calling cards are only \$35

[More News and notes on Page 3](#)

He had a dream...



On Friday, Jan. 18, many patrons remembered a leader of the Civil Rights movement, a Baptist minister, his speeches and what he stood for in his lifetime.

Martin Luther King Day doesn't just celebrate one man's effort, but a dream he had along with many in the nation, but actively pursued to bring us. His message goes beyond race and creed. As racial issues continue on a new level with recent tragedies, the nation is coming together just as King had envisioned.

Unfortunately, he would die before he would fully see what his nonviolent efforts would accomplish. If Dr. King were alive today, he would demand nothing less.

Pictured above, AO1 Andres Vazquez sings to the crowd during the ceremony. (Photo by JO3 Denise Morris)

Chaplain's Corner

By Cmdr. Jack Kirk,
Base Chaplain

If the eyes are the windows to the soul, then what might the mouth and tongue be? Ah, yes! Words come by mouth and tongue, don't they!

The judgments people make about another person are based, in large part, on what they say and how they say it. People are *personally* evaluated by others largely on this basis! It should therefore be painfully obvious that how well people control their tongue, combined with the content of their speech, are prime elements of what opinion people will form about them. But, in practice, it isn't!

Consider what the content of speech broadcasts about each of us. Others can tell how we are feeling, whether we're having a good day or not, whether we are happy or sad, pleasant or grumpy. Even deeper, speech reveals the content of our character. If our speech is foul and dirty, it reveals to

others a foul and dirty person. If it is profane, our speech reveals a person who is profane. If it is honest and forthright it reveals a person of integrity. If it is cordial, people will like to be around us. If it is critical and condescending people will so judge us. If it is supportive and positive, people will so judge us.

The tongue is such a small member of our bodies. Yet how little we control it, or even realize its power. Through it comes a powerful effect on other people. It's words can sooth, explain and heal. Its words can also inflame, injure and destroy. Through it so much is revealed about us.

If *how* a person controls their tongue says much about their character, then *what* a person allows to flow from their tongue reveals their heart—so said Jesus. Perhaps, it is time that each of us takes a good look deep down inside to learn just exactly what kind of a person their tongue reveals them to be.

Top reasons to invest in thrift savings plan

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — There's still time to get your financial future headed in the right direction by enrolling now in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), offered to military investors everywhere.

Sailors now have the opportunity to open their own TSP account. Here are some of the top reasons to invest your money in TSP.

It's easy to enroll — Service members can enroll in TSP by submitting an enrollment form (TSP-U-1, available online at www.tsp.gov) to their servicing Personnel Support Detachment or ship's office, or online through their Employee/Member Self Service Account.

Tax-deferred income — TSP investments are with pre-tax dollars. Yearly taxable income is lowered by the amount invested in TSP, while all TSP investments and earnings are tax-free until withdrawn at retirement.

Compounding interest — Compounding interest can grow substantially over 20 or more years. Regularly investing for a long period can lead to sizeable gains in interest income. Prudent financial planning and sound investments can combine to equal a stable financial future.

larly investing for a long period can lead to sizeable gains in interest income. Prudent financial planning and sound investments can combine to equal a stable financial future.

TSP is a stand-alone retirement plan — TSP is not tied to military retirement. However, if a service member stays in to qualify for retirement after 20 or more years, the money invested in TSP and the interest the account has earned and compounded during that time can be an excellent supplement to a military pension. SRB tax shelter — TSP is a great place to invest Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) money. If you reenlist for SRB while serving in a combat zone or other tax exclusion area, the entire amount of the SRB deposited into TSP will be tax-free when dispersed after retirement age. At the time you withdraw our account, the TSP will calculate the amount of your withdrawal

See, TSP, Page 3

TSP, Cont. from page 3

that is attributable to your tax-exempt conditions. That portion will not be taxable, but the earnings attributable to it will be.

Loans — TSP investors in a pay status can borrow against their account if the need arises; loans are repaid through payroll allotments. There are two loan types available, the general-purpose loan and a loan for the purchase of your primary residence; the repayment period for each loan varies.

Five investment funds — TSP currently offers five investment funds to which you can allocate any whole percentage of payroll contributions. Once your fund is established, you can redistribute your existing account balance among the five funds by making an interfund transfer.

Your TSP account moves with you — If you are discharged from the service or transfer to inactive status or a retired list, your TSP account moves with you. You will have several options at that time, including transferring the account to a traditional IRA account or other eligible retirement plan.

By learning to control your money instead of your money controlling you, your financial future is in responsible hands — yours. Invest in a stable financial future by enrolling in TSP today.

TSP open enrollment continues until Jan. 31. The next enrollment season begins May 15.

For more information on the Thrift Savings Plan use the Internet at www.tsp.gov. Also, see your command financial specialist.

Desert Moon Theater

Friday, Feb 1
6:30pm Vanilla Sky (R)
9pm Ocean's Eleven

Saturday, Feb 2
6:30pm The Majestic (R)
9pm Ali (R)

Sunday, Feb 3 (Closed)

Monday, Feb 4
6:30pm The Wash (R)

Tuesday, Feb 5
6:30pm Behind Enemy Lines (PG13)

Wednesday, Feb 6
11am Joe Somebody (PG13)
6:30pm Ali (R)

Thursday, Feb 7
6:30pm The Majestic (R)

Friday, Feb 8
6:30pm Vanilla Sky (PG13)
9pm Ocean's Eleven (PG13)

Saturday, Feb 9
6:30pm Joe Somebody (PG13)
9pm Lord of the Rings

Sunday, Feb 10
2pm Jimmy Neutron (G)
5pm Monsters Inc (G)
7:30pm Ali (R)

Monday, Feb 11
6:30 pm Ocean's Eleven (PG13)

Tuesday, Feb 12
6:30pm Vanilla Sky (PG13)

Wednesday, Feb 13
11am Joe Somebody (PG13)
6:30pm Lord of the Rings (PG13)

Thursday, Feb 14
6:30pm Ali (R)



Sailors Beware: BAH and dependent support fraud is a crime

By Office of the Navy Inspector General Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — A significant percentage of Navy Hotline investigations involve allegations of members drawing housing allowances to which they are not entitled, or on behalf of dependents they do not support. Addressing either kind of misconduct requires positive command engagement and the first commandment of good leadership: know your people.

Bachelor Allowance Housing (BAH) II (formerly Bachelor Allowance for Quarters) is paid at either the “with dependents” or “without dependents” rate. The purpose of BAH-II at the “with dependents” rate is partial reimbursement of expenses incurred by the member for providing private quarters for dependent(s) when government quarters are not furnished.

MILPERSMAN 1754-030 states that failure to provide support may be cause of administrative or disciplinary action. MILPERSMAN 1070-270 requires members to update their Page 2s with every change in marital status or number of dependents. Members who fail to update Page 2s, and thereby draw allowances for which they no longer qualify, may be guilty of fraud.

Commands have an obligation to ensure that their people understand the basis for pay and allowances, members’ responsibility for record updates when changes occur and the penalties for false or fraudulent statements.

Record reviews at appropriate levels, with particular command attention to that ever-important Page 2, is required. Promoting family support is an important aspect of professional responsibility, and emphasizes integrity as a Navy duty. It is the first, and still the best, step toward helping Sailors avoid the rocks and shoals of misconduct proceedings.

For information on the Navy Inspector General, go to <http://www.ig.navy.mil>.

The Desert Classifieds

Pets:

- If you’re looking for a new or lost pet, please check with the Churchill Animal Protection Society (CAPS). They have a number of animals available for adoption or sponsorship. Call 423-7500 for more information.

Autos:

- 1992 Chevy S10 P/U, low miles 45,000, 5SPD, 2.8L V6, new tires and sport rims, A/C, AM/FM Cassette, excellent condition \$4,000 OBO, 423-1306
- For Sale-1987 Ford F-150 4x4, extended cab. Good condition, runs well. \$3,000. Call Daryn. (775)530-7237 (w) 423-1895(h).
- 1997 Nissan Pathfinder LE, auto, loaded, leather. In excellent condition with 47,000 miles, retails at \$22,5000, asking \$19,000. Call Nick (h) 867-3669 (w) 426-3259
- 1998 Kawasaki vulcan Classic 800 motorcycle, new batter, immaculate condition, 1,100 miles, \$5,000. Call Bob at 423-6377 (days) or 428-1855 (evenings); leave message at either number.
- 1995 Ninja Kawasaki zx600. New tires. Needs minor work. \$2,500 or BO. 426-3204 (daytime) 423-0168 (evenings)
- For sale: blue, 1988 Ford F150; 1994-300 6-cylinder motor w/ 25,000 miles; many new parts; ½ ton; automatic transmission; many new parts to the motor; overall good condition. Call 428-1078 if interested.
- 1998 FORD F250 XLT 4WD super cab, short bed, V8, auto, tow pkg, extremely clean, 1-owner, non-smoker, oxford white, snugtop, new tires, premium wheels, 75K miles. \$17,995. Call Bobbie 426-4093 or 423-2989

Misc.:

- Dual Stroller for sale. Two-way stadium seating. All-terrain tandem stroller. Excellent Condition. Front seat reverses so tots can ride face-to-face. Rear seat fully reclines. Great for infants. Asking \$100. Call Laura at 423-9465.
- Bedroom for rent. Located near the library in Fallon. Asking \$400 a month. Price covers all expenses except food. Full access to kitchen and bathroom. Call Dorthy at beeper # 426-6895.
- White Wicker Full size bed with mattresses, has headboard and foot board excellent condition asking \$250.00. Also, have the white wicker night stand to match also excellent condition asking \$25.00. Also for sale: Kenwood

stereo system with cabinet, speakers, 2 sided tape deck, tuner, cd player (holds 5 CDs) and amplifier all are also in excellent condition. Now asking \$500.00. Please call 423-2624.

- Items for sale: baby clothes (0-4T, 5), toys, Bassett crib and misc. items. Also have wetsuit for sale. Cal 428-327 to see any items.
- 1995 G.E., 21.7 cu. ft., side-by-side, frost-free refrigerator/freezer with ice maker. Asking \$650/ OBO. Phone AECS Jim Williamson at 426-3485, during normal working hours or 423-8619, after normal working hours.
- Deluxe Stoller with car seat \$65. Call Mardie at 423-2246.
- Murray Go Cart: 2-seater with roll cage and seat belts. 5-HP engine, new condition. Loads of fun for the entire family. \$500. Call Bill Sizemore if interested 428-3202
- **Wanted** Quad reasonably priced, 423-7405
- Looking for a way to get your car to your new duty station? Call Ed Gieratz. I will drive your car to your new duty station and I’m willing to go anywhere in the country. If you have questions or are interested in this service, please call me at 423-7776 or e-mail me at: safedriver59@yahoo.com.
- Guitarist looking for drummer to play rock music for hobby. Call Steve @ 423-4975 if interested.
- Roommate wanted for 3 bdrm, 2 car garage. Next to Art Center in town. Asking \$400 a month. Call 426-2081 for more information.
- Looking for that one particular elusive item? Put your wanted ad in the Desert Roundup by calling 426-2880.

News and Notes cont...

Run for a sweetheart

Nothing says ‘romance’ like a 5K run spotlighting Valentine’s Day, right? The beauty of it is that you don’t even really need a sweetheart to run it! Everyone is invited for the event. Admission is free along with free T-shirts for the runners. You don’t even need to be a runner either. Jog it. Walk it. Bring the baby carriage if you want. Race begins at 8am, Friday, Feb 15 in front of the Fitness Center.

Troops to Teachers Program Offers Retiring, Separating Sailors a Second Career

Navy News Service

SAN DIEGO — What does the recent financial boost to the Troops to Teachers program mean to Sailors here who are planning to separate or retire? It could mean the difference between being a teacher and not being a teacher.

Earlier this year, the Defense and Education departments resurrected the Troops to Teachers program with an \$18-million infusion from the Fiscal 2002 federal budget. The new money will give retiring or separating service members a chance to become teachers.

"This gives departing military members a chance to continue their lives of service," said John Molino, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy.

At the Navy College Office in San Diego, Sylvia Boaz was recently named the local Troops to Teachers program coordinator. Even though a few service members have asked about the program in her office, she expects more visits once the word gets out about the program's financial windfall.

"First Lady Laura Bush's visit to the Naval Station last year was a great start to what was a dying program," Boaz said. "Then there were the events of Sept. 11. We're hopeful more people will see the new incentive as a good way to get through the red tape required for teaching certification."

Those retiring from the military have always qualified for the program. The FY 2002 Defense Authorization Act adds a new eligible group — service members who separate after six years or more of service, who aren't eligible for retirement, and who agree to serve three years in one of the Reserve components.

The program will pay service members up to a \$5,000 stipend to help cover costs of a teacher-certification program. Some participants would also receive a \$10,000 bonus in lieu of the stipend if they accept a job in a "high-needs" school district. A high-needs dis-

trict is defined as one where 50 percent of its students come from low-income families.

"Educators know the rewards of teaching," Boaz said. "The military has given many service members the opportunity to start a new life or career. Many joined the service when they were young, and they may not have had a mentor or a teacher that impacted their life."

"This is a wonderful opportunity to continue serving, and to impact some kid's life. Many of the children in the school districts associated with this program are in areas similar to the areas many Sailors can relate to," Boaz continued. "The idea of helping the needy will benefit the service member and the school district. The easy transition and stipends are beneficial to the service member while he or she is continuing to meet the teaching certification."

The program is a particular favorite of the first lady. According to published reports, Mrs. Bush sees Troops to Teachers as a "win-win" situation — service members get second careers, and schools get highly qualified people with proven track records.

Those who enroll in the program must teach for at least three years. According to Boaz, Navy College will promote the program at transition assistance classes, which are mandatory when a service member either retires or separates, "however, we would prefer to plant the seed before those classes."

"When service members bring their completed degrees to us to be certified, then Navy College can start planting the seed, giving information to arouse their academic curiosity and possibly entice them to look further into the Troops to Teachers Program," Boaz said.

For more information on the Troops to Teachers program, visit your installation education office or Navy College Office, or go to <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt>.

NASF donates computers to the Gabbs' school system



At Gabbs High School, students who take computer courses will now have access to updated computers, thanks to the base Information Technology Office (ITO) and Supply Department. The base was recently able to distribute excess government computer equipment to schools based on a Presidential Executive Order allowing military bases to donate unused material to the civilian communities. The program was established to provide schools some of the tools needed to meet the challenges of today's expanding technology.

"We had excess computer equipment, and rather than have it destroyed, we found a venue for us to donate good, functional machines to the community," said Supply Officer, Cmdr. Troy Brannon.

While the computers were not the cutting edge of the market, they were vastly superior to the 386 and 486 machines in current use at the Gabbs school system. The ten excess Pentium systems were a welcome addition to the Computer Department of Gabbs High School. "Everything decided to break at once, so the new computers showed up just in time", said Pete Ernst, Head of the Gabbs High School Computer Department.

"The option is to send the computers to the Defense Reutilization and Management Office (DRMO) where they'll most likely be scrapped. Why not get them out to the students who need them", said IT Office Manager, David King.

CVW-17 Chaplain stands in for NASF Chaplain



Chaplain Vernon Vergara, the air wing Chaplain for CVW-17 of NAS Oceania, gave the sermon "the call to be fishers of men" January 20. He stood in for Chaplain Jack Kirk who was at a conference in San Diego. Vergara has been on active duty for 2 1/2 years and has preached for several months. (Photo JO3 Denise Morris)

This Day in Naval History - Feb. 01

By the Navy News Service

1941 - The United States Fleet is reorganized, reviving the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.

1942 - USS Enterprise (CV 6) and USS Yorktown (CV 5) make the first World War II air strike on the Japanese, in the Marshall Islands.

1955 - Operation Deep Freeze, a research task force, established in Antarctica.

For more information about naval history, visit the Naval Historical Center Web site at <http://www.history.navy.mil>.

Welcome aboard Rear Adm. Curtis A. Kemp



Rear Adm. Curtis Kemp, Battle Group Commander for the USS George Washington (CVN 73) recently paid a visit to Fallon to observe training around CVW17. Above, he listens to Cmdr. John Slaughter's (far left) brief before going up in the helicopter while PR1 Randy Essary helps the Admiral into a flight suit. (Photo by JO3 Denise Morris)